



Australian Bureau of Statistics

2911.0.55.003 - Census of Population and Housing: Outcomes from the 2011 Census Output Geography Discussion Paper, 2011

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Summary

About this Release

This release is the follow up publication to ABS Discussion Paper: Census of Population and Housing - ABS Views on the 2011 Census Output Geography (cat. no. 2911.0.55.002).

This second papers outlines the feedback received to the first, and the ABS response. It contains the revised matrix of products that will be released by each geographic area.

Introduction

Introduction

In March 2010 the ABS published the Discussion Paper: Census of Population and Housing - ABS Views on the 2011 Census Output Geography (cat. no. 2911.0.55.002).

The paper explained our Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) implementation plans for the 2011 Census data output. You were invited to comment on the proposed range of Census products and services available for the various levels of the ASGS. This second information paper summarises your feedback and our response. It outlines the changes which have been made to the original proposal.

Abbreviations used in this discussion paper can be found within the Explanatory Notes tab.

Summary

Most feedback was supportive of our plans to disseminate Census data on an ASGS basis.

However, a number of concerns were raised, including:

- Indigenous Profiles not being available by Statistical Area Level geographies
- Time Series Profile only being available by Statistical Local Area and not on Statistical Area Level geographies
- The impact the change in geography classifications would have on time series data, and
- The impact on data availability for Place of Work, Address 1 Year Ago and Address 5 Years Ago

In response we have made the following changes:

- Indigenous Profiles will be available for Statistical Area Level 2 through to Statistical Area Level 4
- All Community Profiles and DataPacks, apart from the Working Profile, will be available for Statistical Local

Areas

- QuickStats will be available for Statistical Local Areas
- Time Series Profile will be released for a range of ASGS areas
- Place of Work, Address 1 year ago and address 5 year ago will be released for Statistical Area Level 2 and Local Government Area
- Boundaries for Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas will be finalised in June 2011 to ensure they are current for the 2011 Census

The Products by Geographic Availability table has been updated to reflect the above changes.

Data Availability for Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas

Data Availability for Statistical Local Areas and Local Government Areas

Statistical Local Areas

The Statistical Local Area geography is supported as a transitional unit for the 2011 Census only. Data will not be released for Statistical Local Areas for the 2016 Census.

Your feedback indicated you wanted more information available for Statistical Local Areas. We will make data for Statistical Local Areas available for all Community Profiles and DataPacks - apart from the Working Profile. Data for Statistical Local Areas will be available in QuickStats and in TableBuilder Basic and TableBuilder Pro.

The 2011 Statistical Local Area boundaries will be used.

Local Government Areas

The ABS will continue to provide a wide range of statistics for Local Government Areas including Place of Work, Address 1 Year Ago and Address 5 Years Ago. Data for Local Government Areas will continue to be supported.

You also asked about the availability of data for Place of Work, Address 1 Year Ago and Address 5 Years Ago. Statistical Area Level 2, will be the main geography of dissemination for these topics.

Local Government Areas are not defined by the ABS and are therefore identified as non-ABS (administrative) regions in the ASGS.

For full details see the Non ABS Structure table.

Community Profiles

Community Profiles

The Time Series and Indigenous Profiles gained the most feedback. They are both Census output products from the Community Profiles Series.

Time Series Profile

The 2011 Time Series Profile comprises data from the 2001, 2006 and 2011 Censuses. Concern was raised about the transition from the ASGC to the ASGS. We originally proposed to make the profile available for Statistical Local

Areas, Local Government Areas, States and Territories, and Australia. However, your feedback at the information sessions indicated you wanted time series data on the new geographies. We will now make Time Series Profiles available for Statistical Areas, Levels 2, 3 and 4 in addition to the levels previously proposed.

Indigenous Profile

This profile contains Census characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Some tables provide comparison with the non-Indigenous population. We originally proposed to produce this profile for the geographies: Australia, State, Capital City, Remoteness Area, Local Government Area and the Indigenous Structure of the ASGS. In response to your feedback we will now also produce the Indigenous Profile for Statistical Areas, Levels 2, 3 and 4 and for Statistical Local Areas.

Estimated Resident Population

Estimated Resident Population

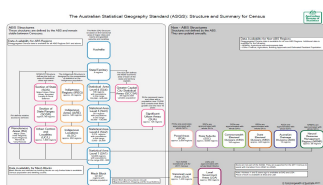
Census data is a key input to the 5 yearly recalculation of the Estimated Resident Population. The Statistical Area Level 2s have been designed to provide a stable framework for Estimated Resident Population modelling. The Estimated Resident Populations based on the 2011 Census will be available on both an ASGS and ASGC basis. You will still be able to request customised data for unpublished areas such as Remoteness, however these areas will be defined from the ASGS.

For the latest information, see ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).

2011 Census Output Geography

2011 Census Output Geography

The ASGS has been finalised and the Census Output Geography structure has been updated to reflect those changes.



Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Structure and Summary for Census. (A3 size PDF)

Text only version of Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Structure and Summary for Census.

Diagram 1: ASGS ABS Structures for Census

ABS Structures

These structures are defined by the ABS and remain stable between Censuses.

Data Availability for ABS Regions

Disaggregated Census data is available for all ABS Regions SA1 and above.

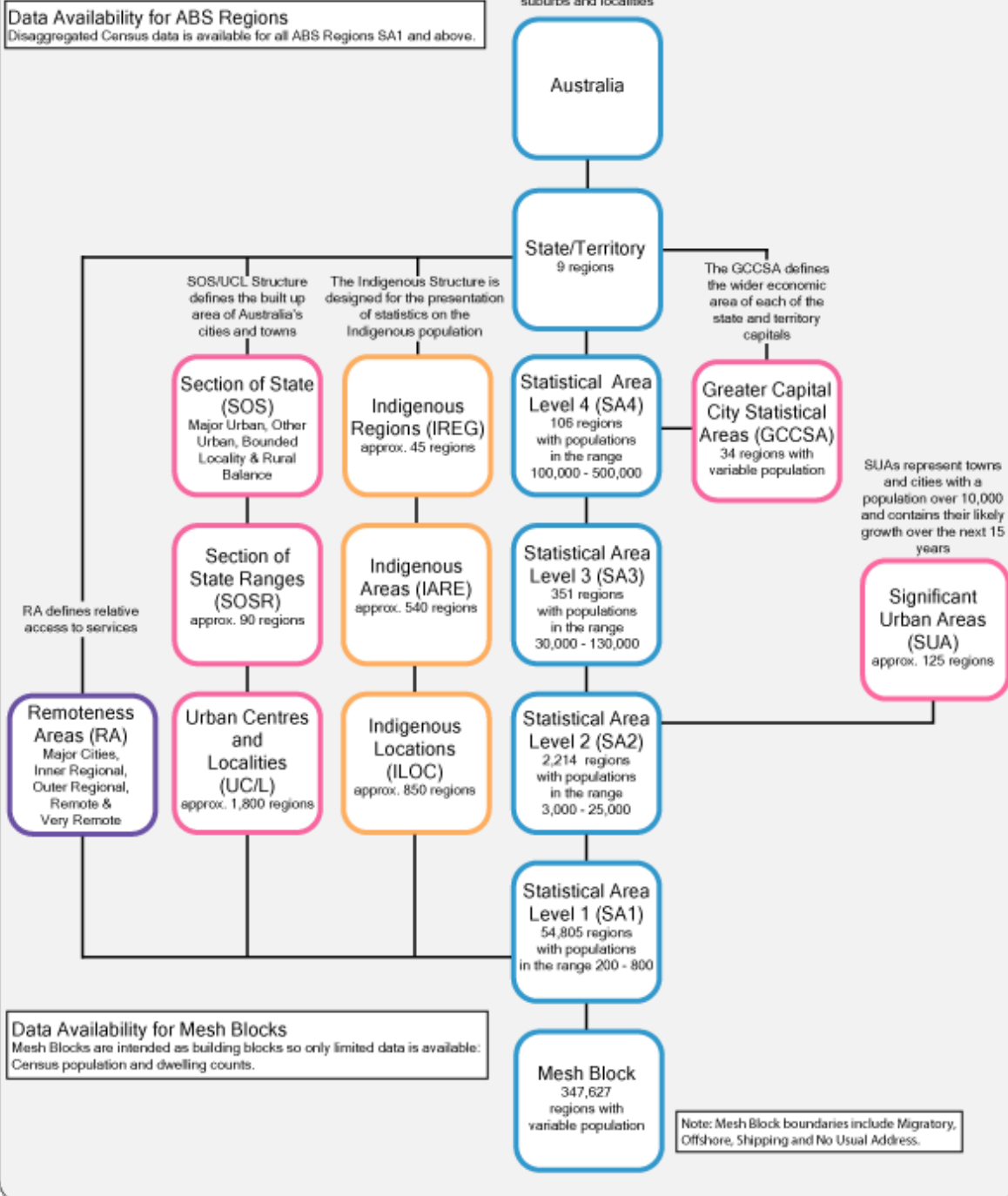


Diagram 2: ASGS Non-ABS Structures for Census

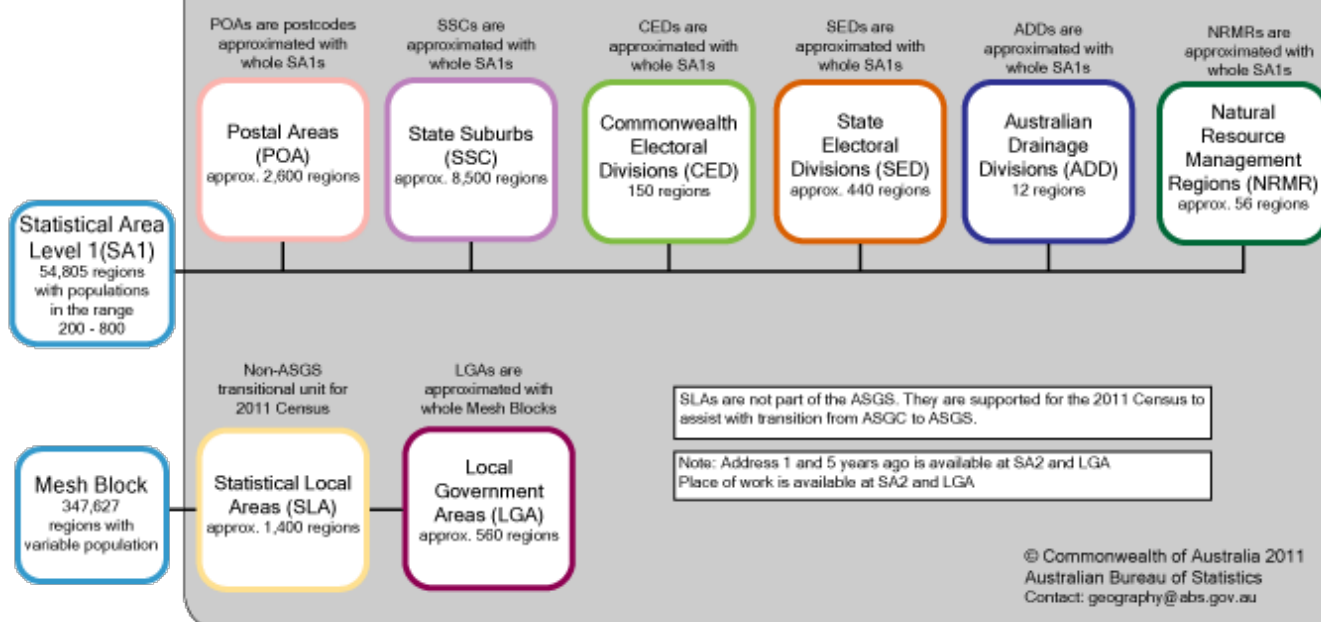
ABS Structures

Non - ABS Structures
Structures not defined by the ABS.
They are updated annually.

Data Availability for Non-ABS Regions

Disaggregated Census data is available for all non-ABS Regions. Additional data is available for the following:

- NRMRs: Agricultural and environment data
- LGAs: Finance, Agriculture, Building Approvals and Estimated Resident Population.



Products by Geographic Availability

Products by Geographic Availability

The following table shows the final range of products that will be available for the various levels of the ASGS.

Information on the proposed range of products and services can be found in ABS [Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing - Proposed Products and Services, 2011](#) (cat. no. 2011.0).

Table One - ABS Structures (a)

Mesh Blocks have been excluded from the table and output for Mesh Blocks will be on basic person and dwelling counts as in 2006.

GEOGRAPHIES									
	Australia	State / Territory (STE)	Statistical Area Level 2 - 4 (SA2 - SA4)	Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1)	Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA)	Significant Urban Area (SUA)	Remoteness Area (RA)	SOS /UCL Structure	Indigenous Structure (b)
CENSUS PRODUCTS									
QuickStats	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
TableBuilder									
Basic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Pro	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Community Profiles									
Basic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Place of Enumeration	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Indigenous	*	*	*		*		*		*
Time Series	*	*	*						
Expanded	*	*	*		*	*			
Working Population	*	*	*		*				
DataPacks									
Basic	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Place of Enumeration	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Indigenous	*	*	*		*		*		*
Time Series	*	*	*						
Expanded	*	*	*		*	*			
Working Population	*	*	*		*				
Estimated Resident Population	*	*	*		*				
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (c)		*	*	*					

(a) Digital boundaries can be downloaded from ABS [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011](#) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001)

(b) In the final ASGS, the Australian Indigenous Geography Classification has been moved under the ABS structure hierarchy and is now in Table One - ABS Structures as Indigenous Structure.

(c) The smallest geographic area for which SEIFA will be constructed will be the SA1. SLA and LGA indexes will be constructed on a best-fit approximation of whole SA1s. SEIFA scores will not be constructed for larger areas. However, similar to 2006, an interactive spreadsheet will be available that will show the distribution of scores within these larger areas.

Table Two - Non-ABS Structure (a)

GEOGRAPHIES

	Statistical Local Area (SLA)	Local Government Area (LGA)	State Suburb (SSC)	Postal Area (POA)	Commonwealth Electoral Division (CED)	State Electoral Division (SED)	Natural Resource Management Region (NRMR)	Australian Drainage Division (ADD)
CENSUS PRODUCTS								
QuickStats	*	*	*	*	*	*		
TableBuilder								
Basic	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Pro	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Community Profiles								
Basic	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Place of Enumeration	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Indigenous	*	*						
Time Series	*	*						
Expanded	*	*						
Working Population		*						
DataPacks								
Basic	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Place of Enumeration	*	*	*	*	*	*		
Indigenous	*	*						
Time Series	*	*						
Expanded	*	*						
Working Population		*						
Estimated Resident Population	*	*						
Socio- Economic Indexes for Areas (b)	*	*	*	*	*			

(a) Digital boundaries can be downloaded from ABS [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2011](#) (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001)

(b) The smallest geographic area for which SEIFA will be constructed will be the SA1. SLA and LGA indexes will be constructed on a best-fit approximation of whole SA1s. SEIFA scores will not be constructed for larger areas. However, similar to 2006, an interactive spreadsheet will be available that will show the distribution of scores within these larger areas.

ASGS Implementation Timetable

ASGS Implementation Timetable

Design is now final for the ASGS geographies:

- Mesh Block
- Statistical Area Level 1
- Statistical Area Level 2
- Statistical Area Level 3
- Statistical Area Level 4
- Greater Capital City Statistical Areas

The boundaries, labels and codes for these geographies were released in Volume One of the ASGS. Volume One was released in December 2010, ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Area, July 2011 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

The digital boundaries are also available for download.

The ASGS will come into effect on 1 July 2011.

The non-ABS structures will be released progressively from mid-2011; this is to ensure that the Census is released on the most up-to-date boundaries available.

Some geographies cannot be finalised until Census Data is analysed.

These include:

- Urban Centre and Locality
- Section of State
- Section of State Range
- Remoteness
- Significant Urban Area
- Natural Resources Management Region
- Australian Drainage Region.

Implementation plans for other ABS collections are outside the scope of this paper.

For further information refer to the [ASGS chapter](#) on the Geography portal, or contact the ABS National Information and Referral Service.

2016 Census

2016 Census

Some of you asked about our plans for the 2016 Census. We anticipate that, subject to funding, you will be able to request Census data for customised regions, built up from Mesh Blocks. We will be retaining the Mesh Block coded data from the 2011 Census.

The ABS encourages the adoption of the ASGS (based on Mesh Blocks) by other organisations to increase the comparability of statistical information across Australia.

Planning for the 2016 Census is underway. Consultation for the 2016 Census will commence in late 2012.

Want to Know More?

Want to Know More?

For the latest Census developments, including recruitment activities, visit the Census home page.

For more information on planned Census developments visit the Census of Population and Housing - Proposed Products and Services 2011.

We also welcome your feedback or questions about our proposed plans for the 2011 Census.

Log your feedback or question on the [preview our plans](#) blog or email us at census.software@abs.gov.au.

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The Australian Statistical Geography Standard for Census - ABS Structures

ABS structures are defined by the ABS and remain stable between Censuses.

Disaggregated Census data is available for all ABS regions from Statistical Area Level 1 and above.

Mesh Blocks

Mesh Blocks are the basic building block of the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard for Census. There are 347,627 mesh block regions with variable population sizes. There are also Mesh Block representing Migratory, Offshore, Shipping and No Usual Address, these do not appear in the Mesh Block digital boundaries. Mesh Blocks are intended as building blocks so only limited data will be available, Census population and dwelling counts.

Main Statistical Area Structure

The main Statistical Area Structure is based on the functional area of major cities and towns and gazetted suburbs and localities.

Mesh Blocks build up to Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1s), which is the smallest unit for release of detailed Census data to be output for the 2011 Census.

The average population of a SA1 is around 400 people, with populations in the 200 to 800 range. There are 54,805 SA1s separated into rural and urban geographies.

SA1s build up to Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s). There are 2,214 SA2s with populations in the range 3,000 to 25,000.

SA2s build up to Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3s). There are 351 SA3s with populations in the range 30,000 to 130,000.

SA3s build up to Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s). There are 106 SA4s with populations in the range 100,000 to 500,000.

SA4s build up to States and Territories. There are 9 in total for Australia, including 'Other Territories'.

Remoteness Areas

Remoteness Areas are built up from SA1s and divide Australia into major cities, inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas, based on relative access to services.

Section of State and Urban Centre and Localities Structure

The Section of State and Urban Centres/Localities structure is built up from SA1s. This structure defines the built up areas of Australia's cities and towns. SA1s build up to Urban Centres and Localities. There are approximately 1,800 urban centres and localities.

Urban centres and localities build up to Section of State Ranges with approximately 90 regions.

Section of State Ranges build up to Section of State. These Section of State regions are major urban, other urban, bounded locality and rural balance.

Indigenous Structure

The Indigenous Structure is designed for the presentation of statistics on the Indigenous population.

SA1s build up to Indigenous Locations, with approximately 850 Indigenous Locations. Discrete Indigenous Communities are identified at this level.

Indigenous locations build up to Indigenous Areas, with approximately 540 Indigenous Areas.

Indigenous Areas build up to Indigenous Regions, with approximately 45 Indigenous Regions.

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas

The Greater Capital City Statistical Areas defines the wider economic area of each of the state and territory capitals. There are 34 Greater Capital City Statistical Areas with variable populations sizes and are built from SA4s.

Significant Urban Areas

Significant Urban areas represent towns and cities with a population over 10,000 and contains their likely growth over the next 15 years. There are approximately 125 regions, built from SA2s.

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard for Census - Non-ABS Structures

Non-ABS structures are structures that are not defined by the ABS. They are updated manually. Disaggregated Census data is available for all non-ABS Regions.

Statistical Local Areas

Statistical Local Areas are not part of the ASGS. However, they are supported for the 2011 Census to assist with transition to the ASGC to the ASGS. There are approximately 1,400 regions. They are comprised of whole Mesh Blocks.

Local Government Areas

Local Government Areas (LGAs) are approximated with whole Mesh Blocks. There are approximately 560 regions. Address 1 and 5 years ago data will be available at SA2s and LGAs. Place of Work data will be available for SA2s and LGAs.

Postal Areas

SA1s build up to 2,600 Postal Areas. Postal Areas are postcodes approximated with whole SA1s.

State Suburbs

SA1s build up to 8,500 State Suburbs. State Suburbs are gazetted suburbs and localities approximated with whole SA1s.

Commonwealth Electoral Divisions

SA1s build up to 150 Commonwealth Electoral Divisions. Commonwealth Electoral Divisions are approximated with whole SA1s.

State Electoral Divisions

SA1s build up to 440 State Electoral Divisions. State Electoral Divisions are approximated with whole SA1s.

Australian Drainage Divisions

SA1s build up to 12 Australian Drainage Divisions. Australian Drainage Divisions are approximated with whole SA1s.

Natural Resource Management Regions

SA1s build up to 56 Natural Resource Management Regions. Natural Resource Management Regions are approximated with whole SA1s.

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Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADD	Australian Drainage Division
ASGC	Australian Standard Geography Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
CED	Commonwealth Electoral Division
GCCSA	Greater Capital City Statistical Area
IARE	Indigenous Area
ILOC	Indigenous Locality
IREG	Indigenous Region
LGA	Local Government Area
MB	Mesh Block
NRMR	Natural Resource Management Region
POA	Postal Area
RA	Remoteness Area
SA1	Statistical Area Level 1
SA2	Statistical Area Level 2
SA3	Statistical Area Level 3
SA4	Statistical Area Level 4
SED	State Electoral Division
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
SLA	Statistical Local Area
SOS	Sections of State
SOSR	Section of State Range
SSC	State Suburb
STE	State/Territory
SUA	Significant Urban Area
UC/L	Urban Centre/Locality

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